

ITEM: 24

SUBJECT: Grassland Bypass Project, Fresno and Merced Counties -- *Status Report and Consideration of Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program*

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of revisions to Monitoring and Reporting Program
No. 5-01-234

BACKGROUND: Many of the farmed soils on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley are derived from marine deposits and contain selenium, salt and boron. Irrigation tends to mobilize these constituents. Selenium is of particular concern due to its toxic effects at low concentrations, and waterfowl are particularly vulnerable. The purpose of the Grassland Bypass Project is to manage agricultural drainage generated in the Grassland drainage basin by controlling the concentration and loads of water-borne pollutants leaving the basin. Drainage is diverted to a single discharge point – the Grassland Bypass.

In 1996, the Grassland Area Farmers, a group of water and drainage management authorities within the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), began operating the Grassland Bypass Project (GBP) under a Use Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The Use Agreement allows them to discharge agricultural drainage through the Grassland Bypass to a section of the San Luis Drain, which subsequently discharges to Mud Slough and the San Joaquin River. The GBP has been operating under Waste Discharge Requirements since 1998. This is a program review as required by the Basin Plan.

ISSUES: The proposed revisions to the Monitoring and Reporting Program are minor and consist primarily of:

- Moving the flow measuring location from the site where water samples are collected (Site B) to the terminus of the San Luis Drain
- Requiring collection of daily composite samples at San Joaquin River at Crow's Landing (Site N).
- Adding Charleston Drain to the list of monitored internal wetland water supply channels
- Changing the frequency of nutrient data reporting (monthly to annually)
- Updating Attachment 1, adding clarifications to reporting limits and replacing settleable solids with Total Suspended Solids.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

28 and 29 April 2005
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Rancho Cordova, California